

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please find attached to this Amendment documents entitled "MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS" and "CLEAN COPY OF THE CLAIMS."

Please cancel claim 7 and add new claim 22 as shown in the document entitled "CLEAN COPY OF THE CLAIMS."

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his kind consideration and assistance in the telephone interview held December 18, 2002. The discussion from that interview is incorporated into the forgoing amendment.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The rejection of claims 7, 8, 16-19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite is overcome by the forgoing amendment.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejection of claims 1-5 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious based on the Lavin patent (U.S. Pat. No. 6,020,281) is overcome by the forgoing amendment.

The rejection of claims 6, 9, 15 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious based on Lavin combined with the Sherman patent (U.S. Patent No. 4,663,052) is overcome by the forgoing amendment.

The rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious based on Lavin combined with Sherman and the Golden patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,897,686) is overcome by the forgoing amendment.

In that the Office Action has indicated that claim 7 and 21 are allowable over the prior art of record, the forgoing amendment overcomes the above-mentioned rejections.

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Applicant respectfully submits that this Amendment and the above remarks overcome all of the outstanding rejections in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033808.107.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Thrice Amended) A process for drying wet F32, which comprises placing a stream of the said F32 in continuous contact with a feed stock of a composition comprising a molecular sieve selected from a 3A, 4A or 5A type sieve, at a temperature of between 5 and 78°C, and at a pressure of between 0.6 and 25 atm,

wherein the sieve feed stock is regenerated by the process which consists in passing a stream of an inert gas over the feed stock, at a pressure at about atmospheric pressure:

(i) at a temperature between 70°C and 170°C, for the time required to remove at least 80%, of the initial amount of F32 absorbed in the feed stock, and then

(ii) at another temperature between 180°C and 300°C, for the time required to remove at least 90%, of the initial amount of water absorbed in the feed stock.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Thrice Amended) The process according to claim [7] 1, wherein step (i) is carried out by first working:

(i1) at first temperature between 70°C and 130°C, for the time required to remove at least 60% of the initial amount of F32 absorbed, and then

(i2) at a second temperature between 130°C and 170°C, for the time required to remove at least 80%, of the initial amount of F32 absorbed.

16. (Twice Amended) The process according to claim [7] 1, wherein the temperature (i) is between 80°C and 165°C and at least 90% of the initial amount of F32 absorbed in the feed stock is removed.

17. (Twice Amended) The process according to claim [7] 1, wherein the temperature (ii) is between 190°C and 250°C and at least 95% of the initial amount of water absorbed in the feed stock is removed.

21. (Amended) A process for drying wet F32, which comprises placing a stream of the said F32, comprising a water content of less than 10,000 ppm, in continuous contact with a feed stock of a composition comprising a molecular sieve selected from a 3A, 4A or 5A type sieve, at a temperature of between 5 and 78°C, and at a pressure of between 0.6 and 25 atm,

wherein the sieve feed stock is regenerated by the process which consists in passing a stream of an inert gas [, optionally helium,] over the feed stock, at a pressure at about atmospheric pressure [, by working firstly]:

- (i) at a temperature between 70°C and 170°C, for the time required to remove at least 80%, of the initial amount of F32 absorbed in the feed stock, and then
- (ii) at another temperature between 180°C and 300°C, for the time required to remove at least 90%, of the initial amount of water absorbed in the feed stock.